

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 168

June 16, 1999, 10:43 a.m.  
Page S-7061 Temp. Record

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS/Passage

**SUBJECT:** The Military Construction Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000 . . . S. 1205. Passage.

### ACTION: BILL PASSED, 97-2

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported and passed, S. 1205, the Military Construction Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000, will provide \$8.274 billion in budget authority (BA) for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense. This amount is \$2.835 billion more than the Clinton Administration requested and is \$175.9 million less than provided last year. The bill rejects an Administration plan to use 2-year, incremental funding for military construction and family housing projects. Key details are provided below.

- Military construction: \$4.145 billion, including \$638.4 million for the National Guard and Reserves;
  - Military family housing: \$3.601 billion;
  - Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC): \$705.9 billion;
  - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Security Investment Program: \$100 million (\$91 million less than requested by the Administration); and
  - a 5-percent reduction will be made in the construction contingency account (-\$278.1 million).
- Miscellaneous:
- \$985 million of the above-listed funds will be spent on unrequested projects;
  - additional alternative means of disposing of chemical weapons will be assessed, though general construction of facilities for the destruction of such weapons will not be delayed;
  - the Family Housing Revitalization Transfer Fund will be established; and
  - National Guard Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection (RAID) Teams will continue to be established.

Those favoring passage contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (97)				NAYS (2)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (54 or 98%)		Democrats (43 or 98%)		Republicans (1 or 2%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Helms	Akaka	Kerrey	McCain	Feingold		Harkin- <sup>2AY</sup>
Allard	Hutchinson	Baucus	Kerry				
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Bayh	Kohl				
Bennett	Inhofe	Biden	Landrieu				
Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Lautenberg				
Brownback	Kyl	Boxer	Leahy				
Bunning	Lott	Breaux	Levin				
Burns	Lugar	Bryan	Lieberman				
Campbell	Mack	Byrd	Lincoln				
Chafee	McConnell	Cleland	Mikulski				
Cochran	Murkowski	Conrad	Moynihan				
Collins	Nickles	Daschle	Murray				
Coverdell	Roberts	Dodd	Reed				
Craig	Roth	Dorgan	Reid				
Crapo	Santorum	Durbin	Robb				
DeWine	Sessions	Edwards	Rockefeller				
Domenici	Shelby	Feinstein	Sarbanes				
Enzi	Smith, Bob	Graham	Schumer				
Fitzgerald	Smith, Gordon	Hollings	Torricelli				
Frist	Snowe	Inouye	Wellstone				
Gorton	Specter	Johnson	Wyden				
Gramm	Stevens	Kennedy					
Grams	Thomas						
Grassley	Thompson						
Gregg	Thurmond						
Hagel	Voinovich						
Hatch	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

Compiled and written by the staff of the Republican Policy Committee—Larry E. Craig, Chairman

This bipartisan bill, which the Senate Committee on Appropriations passed unanimously, will carefully allocate scarce resources to meet our nation's military construction and military family housing needs. Key features include that it will add \$485 million more than requested for housing for service personnel and their families, \$560 million more than requested for funding for the Guard and Reserves (the Administration requested only \$77 million), and \$706 million for the BRAC process. As usual, the Administration requested grossly inadequate funding for the Guard and Reserves. Additionally, this year it added a new gimmick of suggesting incremental funding for many projects (the Appropriations Committee rejected that gimmick). Primarily as a result of these two actions, the President's budget request for this bill was \$2.8 billion less than this bill will provide.

Though we are pleased with the priorities reflected in this bill, the total funding is still inadequate. The downward spiral in military construction funding is continuing. When morale is as low as it is and when enlistment and retention are falling as rapidly as they are, we must try to find ways to give our service personnel incentives to remain in the Armed Forces and to increase their morale when they do. Fixing the dilapidated housing and barracks in which many of them live would certainly help. Our military is only as effective as the people of whom it consists.

Some Senators have expressed concern that this bill will fund a number of unrequested projects. First, we note that every major project funded in this bill has been authorized by Congress. Second, simply because a project has not been requested does not mean that it is not needed. Third, the DoD only requests that which it is allowed to request by the Administration. The other objection that has been raised to this bill is that it would require the Defense Department to study more alternative means of destroying chemical weapons beyond the means that it has already studied. This requirement would not slow down the timetable for destroying those weapons, as has been alleged, because construction will go forward on the general facilities that will be needed no matter which alternative is eventually selected.

This bill has been crafted on a bipartisan basis, and it strongly reflects not Republican, not Democratic, but Senate priorities. It will responsibly allocate scarce resources to meet our pressing military construction needs. We strongly urge our colleagues to vote for this bill.

**While favoring** passage, some Senators expressed the following reservations: